

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SAM CHAPMAN

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize my great friend and former colleague Sam Chapman, who is retiring on February 1, 2015, after a long and distinguished career in public service.

I first had the opportunity to work with Sam when we were both county supervisors in northern California. When I was elected to the Marin County Board of Supervisors in 1976, Sam had already served 2 years on the neighboring Napa County Board of Supervisors after successfully defeating an incumbent. He was only 26 at the time, but he had been motivated to launch his underdog run after watching the incumbent fall asleep at a public meeting. Although he called his 1974 win “the beginning of my career in politics,” Sam had already shown a deep dedication to the ideals of public service.

After receiving his law degree from the University of California at Berkeley’s Boalt Hall School of Law, Sam joined Volunteers in Service to America, VISTA, a national public service program envisioned by President John F. Kennedy and implemented by President Lyndon Johnson to fight poverty in America. He worked with VISTA as a volunteer attorney in the field of poverty law and later became a staff attorney for the Napa County Legal Assistance Agency. He then opened his own general practice law office in Napa prior to running for supervisor.

Sam and I have always shared so many values—he has always been a strong advocate for the environment and other progressive causes—and during the 6 years we served together, we worked to improve the lives of people throughout our North Bay communities. When I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1982, I knew right away that I wanted Sam on my team. For more than 20 years—as press secretary, legislative director, and finally as my chief of staff—Sam worked tirelessly every day to serve the people of the State of California.

In 2004, seeking a new way to serve his community, Sam left the U.S. Senate to become the publisher of the Pacific Sun, a weekly newspaper focused on Marin County. He always had an interest in the news media, having worked as a reporter and editor for the Napa Valley Register prior to receiving his law degree. In 2010, following his lifelong interest in the environment and renewable energy issues, he became the State and Community Affairs Manager at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, where he has worked to strengthen the lab’s ties with the local and regional community. Throughout his career in public service, Sam also found the time to serve on a number of environmental commissions, lending his expertise to the Bay Conservation

and Development Commission, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and California Air Resources Board.

For more than three decades, Sam has been a trusted ally, advisor, and friend. As he begins his retirement and embarks on the next exciting phase of his life, I send him and his family, especially his two beautiful daughters Allegra and Sabrina, my best wishes, deep affection, and abiding gratitude.●

JOHNSON CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CENTENNIAL

• Mr. CORKER. Madam President, on July 6, 2015, the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce will celebrate its centennial.

For 100 years the chamber has promoted business, enhanced economic and community development, and served as a catalyst for improving the overall quality of life for people in the Tri-Cities.

In many cities across Tennessee, chamber of commerce members are the lifeblood of the community. They are our educators, our bankers, our doctors, our pharmacists, and more, and they share a common dedication to improving the quality of lives of their fellow citizens.

As a former businessman, chamber member and mayor, I know firsthand that what we do here in Washington, including Federal regulations and tax policies, has a direct impact on businesses and communities across Tennessee.

For far too long, Washington has put off addressing these issues as well as what I believe should be our top priority: getting our fiscal house in order.

As I speak with Tennessee chamber of commerce groups, one thing is obvious. They are ready for Washington to govern responsibly and finally focus on growing our economy, repairing our fiscal house and strengthening our Nation’s role in the world.

Some of America’s greatest achievements and longest-lasting solutions have occurred when one party controls Congress and another the White House.

It will take hard work, but I am optimistic. If the President rolls up his sleeves and provides leadership and if Congress acts responsibly, I truly believe we can begin to solve some of the big issues members of the chamber care most about.

I congratulate the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce on their centennial celebration. I appreciate their input on how we can strengthen our communities and unleash the entrepreneurial spirit of our local businesses. I thank them for making the Tri-Cities a great place to live and do business, and I look forward to working with them for years to come.●

VERMONT ESSAY FINALISTS

• Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD finalist essays written by Vermont High

School students as part of the Fifth Annual “What is the State of the Union” Essay contest conducted by my office. These 20 finalists were selected from over 400 entries.

The essays follow:

SAM ANGLUM, BURR AND BURTON ACADEMY
(FINALIST)

We marched along for roughly 5 miles, part of which was right through Times Square. While holding up our signs and chanting what we wanted to see change in our government’s priorities, I looked to my left and gazed at the skyline full of skyscrapers atop the canopy of Central Park.

My class and I were marching alongside 400,000 New Yorkers, Americans, and globally aware citizens at the 2014 NYC Climate March. Climate change is a very serious issue that not many people are sensitive enough about. My hopes going into the march were to be a part of bringing global awareness to the massive shift in attitude I feel is going to save the Earth from its imminent doom.

After participating in such a momentous event, I want my voice to echo further than the streets of Manhattan. I want the United States government to consider helping by promoting climate education in schools across the nation so that this kind of action becomes a part of the everyday agenda. As a high school student in Vermont, I urge my very own state senators including Governor Shumlin to consider spreading this type of education across the State of Vermont. I imagine the future generations as the key components to setting goals and battling for solutions to the problems that people are fighting against today.

Not everyone will be an activist, or even care nearly as much as they should, but as long as more of the youth is aware of these pressing global issues, the amount of people that will create change will no doubt be multiplied. Our world’s economic foundation is based on the over-extraction of fossil fuels, and because of this one in four carbon emissions comes from humans. I am aware that Vermont has a goal of making restrictions on fossil fuels and ultimately becoming 90 percent renewable by 2050. Every student in Vermont should be aware of this goal. I strongly urge the United States government to contribute to that further by promoting this kind of discussion within classrooms.

New York City Councilman Donovan Richards, a man on the panel for 350.org, spoke to us the night before the march, and his words stuck with me. “Rulership does not coincide with leadership.” The streets of Manhattan were full of leaders on Sunday, September 21, and our desire was to influence our rulers. However, if our voice is transmitted to our “rulers” such as yourself, our governments can “lead” us into a more sustainable and renewable world.

CAROLINE ARTHAUD, CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION
HIGH SCHOOL (FINALIST)

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, members of Congress, and fellow Americans:

Theodore Roosevelt once said, “This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.” At this time, it is my duty to lead this country towards such a place. I stand here today to address our successes, but also our deficits. Although Americans have many reasons to be proud of our accomplishments, it is unrealistic and inaccurate to declare ourselves flawless. We must muster the courage to confront the issues that hold us back.

Although the unemployment rate has decreased from 9.7 percent in 2010 to 5.8 percent in November of 2014, there are still 9 million